

Here is how ICE is complicit in aiding and abetting human smuggling:

A smuggler is paid to bring children into the United States. The smuggler then is apprehended by ICE and prosecuted, but the criminal act is completed when ICE personally delivers the migrant child to the parent who has instigated the crime. If the parent is also illegally in the United States, ICE neither deports the parent nor the child.

The Federal judge chastised the Department of Homeland Security for not enforcing the law and compares this nonenforcement on the border to "taking illegal drugs or weapons it has seized from smugglers and delivering them to the criminals who solicited their illegal importation" into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, with its policy of open borders and blatant refusal to enforce the law, is complicit in the crisis at the southern border.

The timing is not a coincidence. The surge of foreign nationals illegally entering the United States all began when the President planted the seed for executive amnesty in a 2012 Rose Garden speech. In this speech, he announced his policy of unilateral administrative amnesty for minors. This was an avoidable crisis created to set the stage politically for universal amnesty.

The President's policy of nonenforcement has effectively encouraged tens of thousands of people to pay smugglers to bring children from Central America to the United States. Now migrant children just surrender themselves at the border and expect the United States to let them stay, take care of them, or reunite them with their parents who may also illegally be in the U.S.

Why? Because the word is out in Central America that America does not enforce its laws. The number of unaccompanied minors who are smuggled into the U.S. illegally has grown tremendously under this administration, as this chart shows, now up to 142,000 a year.

This is not only a humanitarian crisis, but this crisis is affecting our national security, our economy, our health, and our sovereignty. Our porous border allows anyone to enter the United States illegally. The influx of thousands of migrants comes with a cost to the tune of billions of dollars, all left to Americans to pay for.

The system is overwhelmed. We can't even take care of our veterans. Now there have been disturbing reports of diseases originating in Central America that have traveled with the migrants coming to our country threatening the health of people who are legally here and American citizens.

This is not isolated on the border towns. Unaccompanied minor children are being sent all over the country. In fact, I just found out last night that Health and Human Services is looking for a school to house unaccompanied minors in Houston, Texas—my hometown.

While the administration acts surprised about the crisis, the paper trail shows they knew that it was coming in January. The Department of Homeland Security in January posted online advertising for transportation contractors needed to help deal with this surge of unaccompanied minors coming into the United States.

The administration knew about this, but rather than enforce the rule of law and increase border security, the administration planned to accept the migrants and find places to house them. This current chaos is also an insult to people who come to America the legal way, but the White House has put politics over the law and what is best for the American people.

So what now? Well, deploy the National Guard to the southern border to deter future migrants from making the journey to America. It is the first duty of the Federal Government to defend the sovereignty of our Nation. Appropriate money that is still going for nation-building in Iraq to fund the National Guard on our southern border. Surely, protecting our border is just as important as securing the border of Iraq. If the President won't protect the border, let the State Governors do it with the National Guard.

Second, those who have already come here should be safely reunited with their families in their native countries. The law should be changed to expedite their removal. Warehousing these children is not a compassionate response to this crisis. It will not solve the crisis; it will only grow.

The President of the United States should be the first to say to the world: The rule of law will be enforced in the United States. Do not try to beat the system. Come to the United States the legal way or not at all.

But the administration is missing in action in this crisis. It is true the President is going to Texas this week, but he is going down there to raise money for a campaign. He is not going near the border. Maybe it is just too dangerous to go to the Texas-Mexico border.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FROM PFAFFTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Band of Raiders that successfully marched on Washington last week.

The Reagan High School Marching Band came to D.C. from Pfafftown, North Carolina, one of only 14 bands chosen to participate in the National Independence Day Parade.

Director Andrew Craft gives life to the band's philosophy that "we must create strong musicians before we can expect a strong music ensemble." The

band's music statement emphasizes performance excellence, and excellence's ever present companion: work ethic.

In fewer than 10 years, Reagan High School is already recognized as having one of the top school bands in North Carolina and the Nation.

The Raiders performed "America the Beautiful" for the parade. They are also proud of the Reagan High School fight song, appropriately titled, "The Great Communicator March."

It is an honor to recognize this fine organization today, and I wish them continued success in the future. With their rigorous focus and commitment to excellence, I believe we can count on a bright future for the Band of Raiders.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, our crisis at the southern border is a direct result of the President's executive actions that have sent a message to children and families across Central America that if they cross our porous border they will be allowed to stay. In fact, the administration estimates approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children will cross our border this year alone.

This is a humanitarian crisis of this administration's own creation and a stark reminder of the President's failings when it comes to securing our border. An unsecure border presents many dangers to our national security, and the recent and dramatic rise in unaccompanied alien children along our southern border indicates an alarming ease at which our border is being crossed illegally.

Potentially worse than that, despite the administration's apparent surprise by this recent surge in border crossings by these children, on January 19 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security posted a request for information on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site seeking contractors to provide "escort services" for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The posting specifically calls for a contractor who can transport unaccompanied alien children that have been apprehended by law enforcement in the U.S. to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The solicitation from January states that "there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total."

□ 1215

The online posting suggests that DHS was expecting a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied alien children that it would need to transport this year.

Furthermore, the 65,000 number closely corresponds with the administration's new estimate that 60,000 unaccompanied children will come into the country illegally this year.

This leads to the obvious question of how it was that ICE or DHS was able to project such a rise in border crossing by children this year.

Because of this, I have sent a letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and Acting Director of ICE, Thomas Winkowski, demanding information as to how their agencies may have anticipated the recent and dramatic rise in the number of unaccompanied alien children that are crossing the southern border into the United States illegally.

Mr. Speaker, this unprecedented humanitarian crisis at our border must be resolved, and I fear that promises of even more unilateral executive actions from this President will only make the problem he has created even worse.

We must get to the bottom of how this crisis happened, how it can be prevented from happening again, and how we can finally secure our Nation's problem of securing our porous borders.

IN HONOR OF MY SISTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our great country.

As the fireworks went off and we celebrated Independence Day, July Fourth was a reminder of the men and women across this country and throughout history that have dedicated their lives to freedom, faith, and their families.

We had a wonderful time with a majority of my family, but I was reminded the day following the Fourth of July that this is not just about a place where we talk about policy. It is really about people.

I got a call that my sister, who is fighting a different kind of fight—a fight against cancer—was moved to a hospice wing. Truly, as I went to visit her, she reminded me, Mr. Speaker, that it is not about policy, but it is about people.

Today, as she fights for her final breath, I want to take a personal opportunity to tell the few that are gathered here—and perhaps this is only for an audience of one—that an older brother is proud of his sister. He is very thankful for the opportunity that he has had these last 52 years to know her.

Lord, as we look at the fight against cancer, it affects every single family—perhaps every single Member that is here—and there is nothing much that we can be thankful for, other than the time that it permits us to say the things that we should have said long ago.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body to thank many of the Members who have been praying for my sister, but mainly to say that I am proud to be her brother and to serve this country, where we can gratefully express our appreciation in a free and unselfish way.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the House reconvenes, we ask Your blessing upon deliberations informed by the experiences and interactions of the Members with their constituents.

We thank You for the time to be together with family and friends as our Nation celebrated 235 years of being a marvelous experiment in the self-governance of a people brought together by ideals and trusting in the ability of a free people to govern themselves in justice and peace.

Mindful of this great heritage, and the hard work and sacrifices of so many American ancestors to us all, may the Members of this people's House deliberate in good faith, mindful not only of short-term interest, but of their place in history, and of the tremendous responsibility to govern wisely for a bright future for our Nation.

May all that is done this day, in the wake of our national celebration, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING RANDY ERICKSON

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Randy Erickson, a constituent from Kodiak, Alaska.

Recently, on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation, he traveled from Kodiak, Alaska, to South Sudan. While there, Mr. Erickson repaired and serviced power generators for the two utilities that provide these towns with electricity. This work is part of the Electrification Sustainability Program in South Sudan, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

One project has evolved into a self-sustaining municipal electric cooperative serving approximately 1,300 consumer members. The other project also serves approximately 550 customers, including household, commercial enterprises, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

After the 2005 peace agreement in South Sudan, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation sent a team of experienced engineering and management staff to establish the first electric cooperative, and later to build two more rural utilities in other areas.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International team provided training at these utilities to strengthen the competency of their directors, management, and employees.

Civil unrest broke out again last December, and many people were evacuated. Recently, USAID and the State Department began approving travel for its employees and partners to South Sudan, and Mr. Erickson volunteered his time and skills for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation to help ensure that, despite the unpredictable situation, the people in these areas could still have electricity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Erickson for his hard work.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, once again, as so many times before, the people of Israel are under missile attack from the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, with 300 rocket attacks since June—150 just over the past few days—forcing children into shelters, with the promise of more violence rained on Israel. This is the same Hamas that has formed a unity government with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Speaker, some things are clear. When rockets are fired on Israel, Israel will defend its people. When Hamas chooses violence, Israel will protect its people. When Hamas commits itself to the eradication and extermination of Israel, Israel will do what it must to ensure its survival.